However, the backlog at the micro-level may vary from market to market on account of operational reasons. The situation is expected to normalize further by the end of November 2005 on the restoration of production in RIL's refinery.

The following measures have been taken to prevent the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes:-

(i) Under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes by the distributors of OMCs is prohibited. The State Governments are empowered to take action against erring distributors under the provisions of this Order.

(ii) State Government are alerted from time to time to crack down the diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage.

(iii) As per the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) for LPG distributor, in case of establishment of any diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinder for commercial purposes, the following action is taken against the distributor:

(a) Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.

(b) Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence, and

(c) Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

(iv) The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributor's godown, delivery point as well as enroute to ensure that no diversion/black marketing takes place. Action against the erring distributor is taken in terms of MDG/or Distributorship Agreement.

BPCL's deal with British Petroleum

691. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BPCL has signed a deal with British Petroleum to obtain six lakh barrels of the crude in October, when the 1.764 km. BTC pipeline is operational;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent it will help for India's oil need with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) had placed an order with M/s British Petroleum in August 2005 for import of one cargo of 600,000 bbls of Azeri Light crude oil on Spot Tender basis loading in October 2005 at Susa Port on the Black Sea. When the BTC pipeline is commissioned, trading of Azeri Light crude oil will start from Ceyhan on the Mediterranean Sea.

(c) With the commissioning of the BTC pipeline, Azeri Light crude oil would be available from Ceyhan if brought into the Indian Ocean, would compete with not only other alternative law sulphur crude oil from the Mediterranean basin (Libya, Egypt, Algeria etc.) and West Africa, but also provide competition to West Asian and South East Asian crudes. A more competitive pricing of these crude oils could evolve in the region into a well-prepared Asian oil and oil products market with an Asian marker as is the case in the sophisticated markets of the West, such as Western Texas Intermediate and Brent (dated). This is expected to greatly benefit the quantitative availability and competitive pricing of crudes available for purchase by India.

Revival of public sector undertakings

692. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of petroleum public sector undertakings existing in each State/U.T.;

(b) the number of petroleum PSUs which were in profit, State/UT-wise;

(c) the number of petroleum PSUs which were in losses, State/UT-wise;

(d) the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government have prepared any road map to bring the loss making PSUs into profit with a definite time-frame; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?